

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS REGISTRATION

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Professional Foresters Examining Committee

OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES

Held: August 18th, 2016

Resources Building, 1416 9th Street
15th Floor Large Conference Room, No. 1506-12
Sacramento, California

Members Present:

Otto van Emmerik – Chair
Kim Rodrigues – Vice Chair
Jason Poburko
Jerry Jensen
Tom Osipowich
Larry Forero

Staff Participating:

Matt Dias, Acting Executive Officer
Shuhani Patel, Assistant to the Executive Officer

CAL FIRE Staff:

Bill Solinsky
Chris Maranto

Public:

John Williams
George Gentry

1. Approval of Open Session Minutes of June 21st, 2016 Minutes.

Minutes were reviewed from the members of the PFEC and are approved minor revisions.

08-18-01 Poburko moved the approval of the June 21st, 2016 Open Session Minutes. Member Jensen seconded.

Roll Call: Osipowich (Aye); Jensen (Aye); Rodriquez (Aye); van Emmerik (Aye); Poburko (Aye); Forero (Abstained). Motion carries unanimously.

2. Reports from the Chairman and Executive Officer

Chair van Emmerik congratulated Matt Dias on the recent appointment to the position as Executive Officer of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

EO Dias reported that the Licensing Officer position has been flown and the application deadline for potential candidates is closing shortly. Dias stated that he will soon be contacting CAL FIRE Human Resources to see if any applications have been received. EO, Chair of the PFEC and Chair of the Board will review all applications to determine if interviews will be held. Vice-Chair Rodrigues will also be provided copies of applications so that she can provide input to Chair van Emmerik on her thoughts on applicant qualifications. EO Dias will continue conducting outreach for the position so that a new Licensing Officer can soon be hired.

Dias stated that RPF Chuck Ciancio submitted a letter regarding coastal redwoods on a local radio program (Destination Radio), but it was determined that not enough information was received to move forward. Jensen and Rodrigues agreed and stated that Dias should send out a letter in response of the determination by PFEC.

Dias stated that the next Board meeting will be held in Eureka, CA. at the end of September. Licensing Case 329 will be heard before the Board, which may result in the Board offering final adjudication on this matter.

EO Dias stated that discussions on potential revisions to 14 CCR §1122 require additional attention by Board staff, including preparation of a draft Initial Statement of Reasons (ISRO). Work will be accomplished prior the next PFEC meeting and a draft ISOR and pleading regulatory language will be brought forth to the PFEC for consideration.

3. RPF License applicability to Sustained Yield Analysis (Letter submitted by Chris Maranto)

The central question presented to the PFEC for discussion focused on Professional Foresters Law § 752(b) and whether it applies to the discipline of sustained yield analyses. During PFEC consideration the following elements were discussed by members of the PFEC, Board staff, Department employees and the public:

- Numerous NTMPs have been submitted where inventory stratification (stand typing) had been omitted, raising questions about the accuracy of the sustained yield analysis;
- Previously approved plans were subsequently found to not have accounted for harvest in the estimation of future growth as well annual increment growth;
- RPF education in inventory sampling that is required for making management decisions, as well as developing analyses of sustained yield runs the full spectrum in competency;
- Many forestry schools have shifted away from providing training in the discipline of growth and yield and sustained yield analysis;
- RPFs contend that if the Forest Practices Rules do not explicitly require a specific element (e.g., stand typing, sample variance), then they are under no regulatory obligation to address comments that the Department may raise during review;
- CAL FIRE has not brought forward concerns from Review Teams to the Board and PFEC, has been inconsistent in its review standards and has not been putting forth a consistent set of expectations to consulting RPFs and its own Review Teams.
- The PFEC requested that the Department provide a update on the various issues pertaining to growth and yield and long-termed sustained yield to potentially support a workshop on this issue.

- A workshop between RPFs, PFEC, CAL FIRE, Board of Forestry and interested public members should be held to have a candid discussion about “what is” and “what is not” working in the NTMP program.

The PFEC were unanimous in responding that Professional Foresters Law § 752(b) applies to the discipline of sustained yield analyses.

4. Professional Foresters Fund

EO Dias provided an update on fund balance and stated that the fund is still being closely tracked by Board staff. There has now been a year of data collected since changes to revenue accounting was modified by implement advanced allocation of bi-annual licensing dues. This will allow the PFEC to more easily address the long-term sustainability of the Professional Forester Fund in the future.

5. Meeting Adjourned